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REPORT

OF

BRIGADIER GENERAL R. S. RIPLEY,

OF OPERATIONS

FROM AUGUST 21, TO SEPTEMBER 10, 1863.

WITH SUB-REPORTS.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

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## MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., January 7, 1864.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I herewith transmit, for your information, a communication from the Secretary of War, covering a copy of the report of Brigadier General R. S. Ripley, "of operations from August 21 to September 10, 1863."

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

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## COMMUNICATION OF SECRETARY OF WAR.

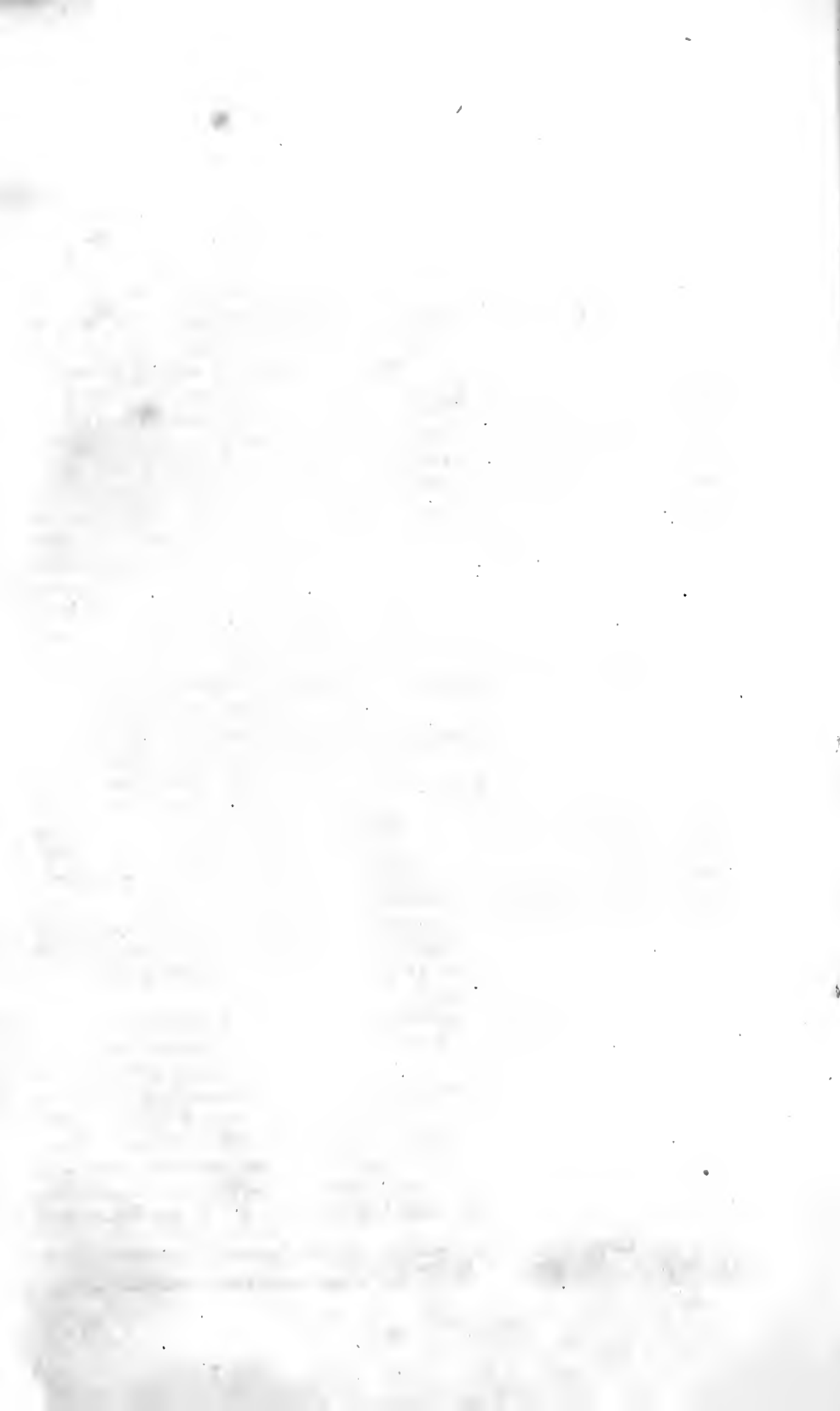
CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,  
War Department, }  
Richmond, Va., January 6th, 1864.

*To the President of the Confederate States :*

SIR : I have the honor to forward, for the information of Congress, copies of Brigadier General Ripley's report of operations from August 21 to September 10, 1863, with sub-reports.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*



## REPORT OF GENERAL R. S. RIPLEY.

• HEADQUARTERS FIRST MILITARY DISTRICT,  
*Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida,* }  
Charleston, September 22d, 1863.

GENERAL: On the morning of the 21st of August, the enemy opened heavily against the east face of Fort Sumter, from his land batteries, enfilading it, and by half-past seven had succeeded in disabling one ten-inch gun and a rifled forty-two-pounder. The cannonade was continued throughout the day. Four hundred and sixty-five shot and shell struck Fort Sumter outside, two hundred and fifty-nine inside, and two hundred and nineteen passed over, nine hundred and forty-three in all. The effect was to batter the eastern face heavily, doing considerable damage, and to disable the guns already mentioned, one eight-inch columbiad and a rifled forty-two-pounder. Seven men were wounded in the fort—three dangerously. In the evening, the Ironsides frigate came within range. Five eleven-inch shot were fired at her, when she withdrew. Brigadier General Hagood relieved Colonel Keitt in command of our troops on Morris Island, at two o'clock on the morning of the 21st. At half-past two, he opened fire on the enemy's advance, then within about four hundred and fifty yards, to which the enemy responded vigorously. The practice was kept up until daylight. During the early part of the day, the enemy's land batteries were employed upon Fort Sumter, and fired but little upon Wagner. A monitor and two wooden gun-boats, during the afternoon, opened upon the battery and the troops on the hills. This fire was replied to by a ten-inch gun from Wagner and by Battery Gregg. Towards evening, the heavy land batteries commenced upon Wagner, adding their annoyance to that of the sharpshooters, which had been constantly kept up during the day.

At dusk a large force of the enemy was observed approaching, with the apparent intention of assaulting the rifle-pits. He was received with a brisk fire; and General Hagood immediately reinforcing his advance, drove back the assault.

The casualties at Wagner were Captain Robert Pringle, of Lucas' battalion of artillery, (who died nobly at his post,) killed, and seven wounded. Batteries Cheves and Simpkins kept up a continuous fire with columbiads and mortars throughout the day on the enemy's advance. At twelve o'clock the enemy sent a flag of truce to battery Wagner, with a communication to the commanding general. This Brigadier General Hagood retained, there being no immediate communication with the city until the evening, when it was delivered to the commanding general, who visited Morris' Island at that time.\* At about half-past

\*NOTE.—It being at night, with no proper light at hand, the communications were sent unsealed, by the same messenger, to my headquarters.

G. T. BEAUREGARD, General commanding.

two o'clock, on the morning of the 22d, an officer was sent to Morris Island, returning the dispatch enclosed to the commander of the enemy's forces for signature, which had been omitted.

Soon after three o'clock, the enemy opened from a new battery, constructed in the marsh, a little to the west of Thomas' Island, at long range, upon the city of Charleston, several shots reaching the city, but doing no damage whatever, beyond the destruction of a few medical stores, and injuring one or two walls slightly.

During the night of the 21st, the twentieth South Carolina volunteers was relieved from duty at Morris Island, by the sixty-first North Carolina regiment; and different detachments of artillery were also replaced by fresh troops. Captain Gaillard's company of artillery was relieved from Fort Sumter, and stationed at Sullivan's Island.

A considerable quantity of artillery implements, and nine thousand seven hundred pounds of powder, with subsistence and other stores, were also shipped from that fort during the night.

The enemy opened heavily from his land batteries on Fort Sumter, at six o'clock, A. M., on the 22d, directing his fire, as before, principally at the east face, and continued it throughout the day, throwing six hundred and four shots, of which two hundred and three struck outside, two hundred and sixteen struck inside, and one hundred and eighty-five missed. The effect during the day was to disable the remaining barbette guns, except one eleven and one ten inch gun on the eastern face, demolish the arches of the northwest face, (of which five and the terreplein fell in,) and scale the eastern face severely. One private was wounded.

While continuing the fire against Fort Sumter, at an early hour in the morning two monitors opened upon Battery Wagner, shelling for about two hours, when they were replaced by the Ironsides, and she again, reinforced by two other monitors, keeping up a heavy cannonade until about two o'clock, when they all withdrew. They all kept at long range, but had the effect of preventing a continued fire from the battery on the advancing works of the enemy; although it was kept up for about one hour-and-a-half during the morning. The sharpshooters recommenced their fire as soon as the fleet withdrew. Battery Gregg returned the fire of the monitors until they were out of range, when the guns were turned upon the enemy's stockade and advance works, to which his land batteries replied.

A flag of truce was sent by steamer Spaulding, with a communication from the commanding general and certain consuls, to the enemy, during the evening.

Batteries Simkins and Cheves kept up a continued fire upon the works of attack.

On the morning of the 23d, at about half-past three, the enemy's iron-clad fleet came up the channel and engaged Fort Sumter at short distance, firing sixty-one shots, of which twenty-nine struck outside, fifteen inside, and seventeen missed, doing considerable damage to the eastern parapet and wall. The fire was replied to by the guns of Fort Sumter, capable of service; and the proper signals having been made, Colonel Butler, commanding artillery on Sullivan's Island,

manned his batteries and opened fire on the nearest monitor. A dense fog soon set in, however, which prevented effective practice at so small a mark. From Fort Moultrie the firing was only kept up by throwing shell to interrupt any reconnoissance which the enemy might make of the obstructions, until about half-past six, A. M., when the fog rose, and the enemy retired, after receiving a few shots. At Battery Wagner, during the night, all the damages which had been done to the battery were repaired; but notwithstanding a constant fire from the advanced pickets, the enemy succeeded during the night in pushing his sap about forty yards. At an early hour in the morning, however, General Hagood opened upon them with three guns, and succeeded in interfering with his work almost entirely during the day, and seriously injuring what had been accomplished during the night. The enemy's land batteries opened upon Wagner in the morning and afternoon, but gave their heaviest fire during the day to Sumter. The Ironsides attacked about seven o'clock, but being replied to by Battery Gregg and the sea front of Wagner, she retired, after about an hour-and-a-half. One of her boats, a fine launch, was cut away, secured by volunteers from the garrison, and sent to the city of Charleston, where it has since been employed in transport service. At about twelve o'clock, a flag of truce came in from the enemy, with a communication for the commanding general and foreign consuls. The casualties at Battery Wagner during the day were seven wounded, amongst whom was the gallant and distinguished Lieutenant Colonel P. C. Gaillard, the commander of the Charleston battalion, who lost his left hand, while in the faithful and unflinching discharge of his duty. The fire from the enemy's land batteries was kept up on Sumter during the whole day, throwing six hundred and thirty-three shot and shell, of which two hundred and eighty-two struck outside, two hundred and ten inside, and one hundred and forty-one missed.

The effect was to disable the 10-inch columbiad remaining and the three rifled 42-pounders in the northern salient of the second tier. The eastern face was very badly sealed and the parapet seriously injured. The flag staff was twice shot away, but the flag each time immediately replaced. The casualties in Fort Sumter were seven wounded, including Lieutenants Boyleston, Ficklin and Scanlan, severely, and private Davis, company C, mortally. The enemy opened with Parrott guns on Fort Johnson, during the day, annoying working parties to some extent. Batteries Cheves and Simkins kept up their regular fire upon his land approaches against Battery Wagner, and upon his marsh battery at night; but, nevertheless, at about midnight the enemy opened upon the city of Charleston with a heavy Parrott rifled gun and upon Battery Cheves with a mortar. The damage, however, was slight, and the rifled gun, having either burst or been struck on its muzzle by a shot from our batteries, ceased its practice from that time.

On the morning of the 24th, fire was opened upon Sumter from the land batteries, but only one hundred and fifty shots were thrown during the day, having principally the effect of scaling and damaging

the eastern scarp, making one or two penetrations in the lower casemates, which were speedily filled up with sand bags. No casualties occurred at Sumter.

At Battery Wagner the work of repair and preparations went on during the day, and a mortar practice was kept up against the enemy's working parties. Direct fire was also opened whenever practicable, but it was ordinarily of short continuance, owing to the surpassing accuracy of the enemy's practice against the embrasures, rendering great care necessary to preserve the pieces. Sharpshooters were busily engaged on both sides. Batteries Simkins, Cheves and Haskell were engaged from time to time in firing upon the enemy's advance during the day and night. The nineteenth Georgia regiment relieved the Charleston battalion during the evening of the 24th.

The enemy had commenced building another battery in the marsh, south of that from which he opened fire upon the city. Fire was opened upon it from Simkins and Cheves, but soon discontinued, circumstances showing it to be a sham.

The practice against Fort Sumter commenced about half-past nine o'clock, and continued throughout the 25th. One hundred and seventy-five shot and shell were thrown, of which sixty-two struck outside and thirty-six inside. The damage was only to increase the debris and explode an ammunition chest. There were no casualties. At Battery Wagner the enemy was unusually quiet, firing but few of his land batteries, until about three o'clock in the afternoon, when he opened an incessant fire from his mortars upon the fort and the space between it and the rifle pits. Towards evening he was observed, from the observatories in the city, to be accumulating forces in his works of attack, and orders were sent to Batteries Cheves and Simkins and Fort Moultrie to open upon them. Soon after dark he advanced upon the rifle pits in front of Wagner, but General Hagood's forces were fortunately prepared to receive him. His mortar practice ceased, and his infantry assaulted fiercely, but the position was held with courage and spirit, and success crowned the efforts of the brave men of the sixty-first North Carolina and fifty-fourth Georgia regiments, who constituted the advanced pickets and reserve. The latter regiment had been on duty during the day and had just been reinforced by the sixty-first, going to its relief, under Colonel Devane.

Captain Roberts, of the fifty-fourth, a gallant soldier, was mortally wounded. The casualties were five killed and nineteen wounded. Colonel Harrison of the thirty-second Georgia, relieved Brigadier General Hagood in command of the forces on Morris Island at ten o'clock on the evening of the 25th; Lieutenant Colonel J. Welshman Brown relieving Major Warley as chief of artillery.

Twelve thousand pounds of powder and a large quantity of ammunition and material were transported from Fort Sumter during the night. Companies C and F, of the first regiment of artillery, were transferred to the new batteries near Fort Johnson, their places being supplied by one hundred and fifty men from Brigadier General Colquitt's brigade.

The enemy commenced against Fort Sumter at six, A. M., on the 26th, but his fire was inexact and slow, doing but little damage, except increasing the debris. The garrison and laborers were employed in repairing damages. A quantity of ten inch shells were shipped during the night, with other ammunition.

At Battery Wagner, Colonel Harrison kept up an irregular fire during the night of the 25th, and also during the day, but several of his guns were badly damaged, and his supply of ammunition, from deficiency of transportation and other causes, not full. The enemy returned the fire from a number of guns, generally giving four shots to one, and, about the middle of the afternoon, increased the cannonade against Wagner and Gregg. About five o'clock, he concentrated all his fire on Battery Wagner and the rifle-pits. Meanwhile, massing his troops in his works of attack, just before dark, he threw forward an overwhelming force on the advanced pickets, notwithstanding the fires of Batteries Simkins, Gregg and Cheves, and succeeded in overpowering them before they could be supported, capturing the greater number. He attempted to advance beyond the rifle-pits, but having exploded three torpedoes, and being received by a warm fire from Wagner, his advance was checked for the time.

The sixty-first North Carolina regiment and the artillery detachments on duty at Morris Island, were to be relieved during the night, by the eighth North Carolina, and three detachments of artillery from three respective regiments.

Upon the enemy's attack; the relieving party was strengthened by the twentieth South Carolina volunteers, and Colonel Harrison was ordered to retain the troops to be relieved.

During the night of August 27th, the enemy had recourse again to his regular approaches, and succeeded in making some progress. At dawn of the 27th, he was opened upon by Wagner, which was replied to by the enemy's Parrott guns, making it impossible to use our imperfect artillery with good effect. The sharpshooters were kept at work, and at dark the artillery fire was renewed.

Brigadier General A. H. Colquitt relieved Colonel Harrison, in command of the island, at twelve o'clock, on the night of the 27th. The enemy's operations against Fort Sumter consisted only in throwing four shots at the flag. The garrison was employed in stopping breaches and embrasures. During the night, a nine-inch, a Dahlgren gun and a ten-inch columbiad were thrown from the walls, to be transported by a party under Mr. J. Frayser Mathews. The Dahlgren was brought to the city, with a large quantity of implements and ammunition.

The enemy was very quiet during the 28th, throwing only six shots at Sumter. The tides had apparently damaged some of his works, which he was engaged in repairing. He continued his advance, by his regular approaches, on Morris Island, on which he was retarded by the artillery fire from Batteries Gregg, Simkins, Cheves and Haskell, and the infantry fire from Battery Wagner, during the day and night. At Fort Sumter, a nine-inch Dahlgren gun was thrown over the parapet, but badly injured in the fall. The ten-inch columbiad,

sent down the night before, with a large supply of ammunition, was shipped. No casualties occurred. The sixty-first North Carolina regiment was relieved from Battery Wagner.

No firing occurred against Sumter on the 29th. During the night, company D, of the first South Carolina artillery, was sent to Charleston, being replaced by fifty men of General Colquitt's brigade. A seven-inch Brooke gun and a forty-two-pounder rifle were thrown from the parapet. The Brooke gun and a large quantity of miscellaneous ammunition and implements were shipped. On Morris Island, the enemy were engaged in strengthening their works, annoyed and retarded by the fire from the batteries on James Island, and Fort Johnson, and from Fort Moultrie, which, although at a great range, was reported, by General Colquitt, as quite effective. The guns at Battery Wagner did good service. An irregular fire was kept up on both sides; no serious damage was done to Wagner, but the nine-inch gun, (Dahlgren) at Battery Gregg, was dismounted. During the evening, Lieutenant Randall, A. D. C., to General Colquitt, a highly distinguished and meritorious young officer, received a very severe and dangerous wound.

The fifty-fourth Georgia regiment was relieved, as well as artillery detachments, by the thirty-second Georgia, and other troops, during the night.

On the morning of the 30th of August, the enemy opened a rapid fire, from four guns, on Fort Sumter, wounding four men, throwing about the debris and disabling the three ten-inch columbiads on the sea face, which had been repaired. This was kept up until about five o'clock in the afternoon, and, by that time, three of the casemate arches on the northeast face, had been demolished, and two breaches made in the scarp wall of the eastern face, exposing the sand with which the arches were filled. On Morris Island, the enemy was quietly engaged in driving his saps, in which they were opposed by the James Island batteries and Wagner; and attempted a new approach on the left, but was compelled to desist. During the day but little firing took place, except from sharpshooters, but at evening, a brisk mortar practice was commenced on Battery Wagner, and a fire from Parrott guns on Battery Gregg, apparently to cut off supplies and the relieving troops. These were sent down in the steamer Sumter, the naval force being unable to co-operate with boats; and, the weather being favorable, it was determined by the quartermaster in charge, to make the attempt to communicate direct. The twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth Georgia regiments and Captain Johnson's company of artillery, with the supplies and stores for Morris Island, had been safely landed, and the twentieth South Carolina and twenty-third Georgia regiments and Captain Mathews' artillery received on board. So much time had been taken up, however, that the tide had fallen so low as to necessitate going by the main channel, and unfortunately the necessity had not been provided against, by giving information to, and establishing a signal with the batteries on Sullivan's Island. The steamer had run safely to the enemy's fleet, and was coming up the channel, when, being observed from Fort Moultrie, fire was opened upon her.



Before the officers in charge had learned this error, several shots took effect, sinking the boat and causing the loss of arms and equipments. The troops on board were rescued by the garrison of Fort Sumter, under Col. Alfred Rhett, and boats sent down by the navy. Eight men were reported missing the next morning, and it is feared were drowned. Special reports have been made to headquarters on this unfortunate occurrence.

During the night of August 31st, in spite of a heavy fire from Battery Wagner, the enemy continued strengthening his approaches, replying to our fire with his mortars. The batteries on James Island continued their practice, oftentimes with good effect, but from the near approach of the enemy to Battery Wagner, it was, at others, quite dangerous to our own people, and General Colquitt directed them, by signal, to cease. Occasional shots were thrown by the enemy in the morning, and their sharpshooters were especially active. About half-past three in the afternoon, four monitors came up and commenced firing at Battery Gregg, Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter, and the wreck of the steamer sunk the previous night. This was returned by the batteries on Sullivan's Island and Battery Gregg, and the monitors were repeatedly struck from both sides. At dark they withdrew. The fire upon Fort Sumter was quite slack during the day, and did no damage.

At night the troops rescued from the Sumter were transported to their respective posts, and shipment of stores and ammunition continued.

The enemy was engaged on his works on Morris Island during the night of the 31st, under a brisk fire from Battery Wagner, along his front. He succeeded in advancing his lines but a short distance.

At daylight he opened with his mortars upon that battery, and kept up the bombardment, at intervals, throughout the day. The long-range land batteries opened early against Fort Sumter, and kept up a regular and destructive fire, injuring the fort very seriously, and disabling the remaining guns *en barbette*.

The entire terreplein of the northeastern face, with the exception of two arches near the eastern salient, fell in under the fire. At forty minutes past eleven o'clock, P. M., six monitors steamed up and took position, varying from eight hundred to fifteen hundred yards from Fort Sumter, and opened a heavy cannonade upon the eastern face. Fort Moultrie and the batteries adjacent on Sullivan's Island and Battery Gregg, opened upon them in return, striking them frequently and heavily. Two or three soon retired, and remained at long range.

The Ironsides moved in at half past one, on the morning of the 2d of September, and taking a position at from about fifteen hundred to eighteen hundred yards from the Sumter, opened her broadside. She was too far from Moultrie for effective practice, which was ordered to be kept up and concentrated on the leading vessels. This was done until four forty, A. M., when the fleet retired, two monitors apparently injured and requiring assistance.

Their fire had been principally directed against Fort Sumter, appa-

rently with the intention of doing as much damage as possible. This was effected to the extent of demolishing nearly the whole of the eastern scarp, but only three casualties. all slight wounds, took place in the fort. Two men of the fifty-first North Carolina were killed on Sullivan's Island, by the explosion of a shell from the fleet.

The twenty-fifth South Carolina was to have relieved the thirty-second Georgia and eighth North Carolina, on duty at Morris Island, but, owing to the engagement, the communication was interrupted, and only a detachment effected a landing.

While the cannonade was going on, an occasional fire was kept up on Battery Wagner, and the enemy pushed forward his works of attack to within about one hundred and twenty yards of the eastern salient. Owing to the difficulty of communication and supply, the garrison was compelled to husband the ammunition for the heavy guns; but a fire was kept up to impede their progress as much as possible. The sharpshooters on both sides, on Morris Island, were busily employed in the day, but the batteries against Sumter were idle, and the fleet was apparently employed repairing damages and resupplying ammunition. The casualties at Wagner were one killed and six wounded.

At night the movement of the troops, attempted the previous evening, and the supply of Morris Island was effected, and at eleven, P. M., Colonel L. M. Keitt, of the twentieth South Carolina volunteers, relieved Brigadier General Colquitt in the command of that position.

The night of the 2nd passed quietly at Battery Wagner, the enemy pressing forward his works, and our own forces repairing damages and planting torpedoes to obstruct his progress. Early in the morning of the 3rd he opened his mortars, and continued the practice throughout the day. The casualties for the day were one killed and six wounded.

A quantity of ammunition and stores were removed from Fort Sumter during the night of the 2nd. The 3rd passed away without the enemy's firing upon that work, and the garrison and hands were employed in reliefs. At night the shipment of ordnance and stores was continued. One ten-inch gun, one eight-inch and rifled thirty-two-pounder were removed from the berme of the fort and transported to the city by Mr. J. Frayser Mathews. Lieutenant Julius Rhett succeeded in throwing from the parapet two ten-inch, one forty-two-pounder rifled, one eight-inch, one eleven-inch, and one thirty-two-pounder rifled guns, during the nights of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of September.

The night of the 3rd passed with comparative quiet, the enemy working at his approaches and pushing them forward with vigor, covered occasionally by his mortar practice. When morning dawned, he neglected Fort Sumter, but kept up an occasional fire from his land batteries on Battery Wagner, and kept his sharpshooters busy in sweeping the parapet from the captured rifle pits. The monitor fleet lay quiet, apparently repairing damages and taking in ammunition. About eight o'clock the Ironsides opened fire on Battery Wagner,

which was kept up until about noon, when she hauled off, and regular mortar practice succeeded throughout the day.

The effect was to increase the casualties seriously. These will be found in the returns accompanying this report, but the daily reports were from this date interrupted. During the afternoon Major Frederick Warley, second South Carolina artillery, was seriously wounded by a splinter. A boat being sent down with an officer to relieve him, was, on its return, captured, with himself, the coxswain and ten men, at about nine o'clock, P. M., by some of the enemy's barges, which had pushed in under the cover of the darkness. The supply of Morris Island and the relief of the twenty-eighth Georgia regiment were, however, effected during the night without further loss.

Fort Sumter having been held through the siege and cannonade by the first South Carolina artillery, under Colonel Alfred Rhett, until its armament had been disabled, and the services of the artillerymen being elsewhere required, the commanding general determined that it should be held by infantry. Several companies had been before relieved by troops from General Colquitt's brigade, and on the night of the 4th the Charleston battalion, under Major Blake, relieved the garrison; Major Stephen Elliott relieving Colonel Rhett in command of the post. Colonel Rhett was placed in command of the interior batteries in and about the city, with Castle Pinckney and Fort Ripley.

The enemy kept up a continual fire on Wagner during the night of the 4th and pushed forward his approaches to a close proximity of the ditch. The shortness of his range and the proximity of his support enabled him to inflict some injury on the garrison, a larger force being necessary at the parapet to guard against assault. Early on the morning of the 5th, the Ironsides combined her fire with the enemy's land batteries, all concentrated on Wagner, with considerable effect, the land guns being directed against the southeastern salient and those of the Ironsides enfilading the land face and curtain of the work. The effect was to severely injure the traverses and communications, to disable the guns and equipments still more effectually, and increase the list of killed and wounded heavily, it amounting to over forty for the day at Wagner and Gregg.

Certain indications of an attack on Cummings' Point, during the night by boats having been observed, Colonel Keitt was directed to prepare to receive it, which he did at early dark by sending strong parties to the support of Battery Gregg and into the sand hills between it and Wagner.

While making these preparations Captain Haines, commanding twenty-eighth Georgia, and Lieutenant Bluin, of the twenty-fifth South Carolina volunteers, were killed by a mortar shell. They were both gallant and meritorious officers.

The enemy kept up a fierce mortar practice on Wagner and at dusk sent in two monitors, which kept up a heavy fire on Battery Gregg and its water approaches until about one o'clock on the morning of the 6th, when they hauled off. Soon after, the attacking party made its appearance in from fifteen to twenty barges, by the interior passages,

coming from the junction of Vincent's and Schooner creeks. They were discovered by Captain Lesesne, who opened upon them with ten-inch grape. Major Gardner, of the twenty-seventh Georgia regiment, commanding the position, threw his infantry forward and opened fire. The enemy was evidently surprised and in confusion, his officers calling out not to fire, that they were friends. Finding his falsehood unavailing, his parties pushed in, firing spherical case from three boat howitzers. Meanwhile Fort Moultrie and Battery Bee opened, over and to the right of Battery Gregg; our infantry plied the attacking party vigorously; two field howitzers, under Lieutenant Macbeth, were opened upon them, and, evidently much cut up, they hauled off and made the best of their way back to their position through the creeks and marshes. The enemy's calcium light had been freely used during the night to light up Wagner and its approaches, and, after the repulse of his boat party, he kept up a furious shelling, almost entirely preventing work upon repairs.

At daylight on the 6th, this was completely stopped by his overwhelming force of sharpshooters. The fire from the land batteries was kept up throughout the whole day, and from time to time, the whole iron-clad fleet fired furiously upon the work, adding heavily to the list of casualties, which, for the 5th and 6th, amounted to over one hundred and fifty. Batteries Wagner and Gregg had now been held under a continued and furious cannonade, by land and sea, for *fifty-seven* days, two assaults had been *signally* and *gloriously repulsed*; the enemy had been forced to expend time, men and material, most lavishly in approaching the first; but at this time, he was within a few yards of the salient; most of the guns of the fort were injured, transportation and supply had become most difficult with the inefficient means at our disposal, the possibility of throwing heavy reinforcements in time to resist an assault by the enemy's overwhelming forces, issuing from his trenches only a few yards distant, out of the question, and the practicability of keeping a sufficient force on the island for the purpose, under the furious cannonade from land and sea, without protecting shelter, scarcely less so. This matter had been some time under consideration by the commanding general, and after receiving reports concerning the state of the works, and our capabilities for reinforcing the garrison, it was determined not to subject those brave men, the flower of our force, to the desperate chances of assault. Orders were accordingly given, on the morning of the 6th, to prepare for evacuation, and the details arranged. A fleet of transport steamers was to assemble between Fort Johnson and Sumter, covered by the Iron-clad steamer "Charleston," while small boats, manned by officers and men of the "Palmetto" and "Chicora" and details from the army, were to embark the forces from Cummings' Point; instructions were sent for the demolition of the armament of both batteries, and for blowing up the magazines, as the places were abandoned. It is to be regretted that the last instructions did not reach Morris Island earlier; but the communication having been completely interrupted by the enemy's boat attack on the night of the 5th, they did not reach the commander until the evening of the 6th, a short time

before the evacuation was to be commenced. Fort Moultrie, Battery Bee, Batteries Simkins, Cheves and Haskell, were all manned and in readiness to open fire, to cover the embarkation should the enemy have discovered the movements and attempted to interfere. For the details of the evacuation, I beg respectfully to refer to the able report of Colonel L. M. Keitt, twentieth South Carolina Volunteers, and the reports accompanying it.

It commenced about nine, P. M., and was concluded at about twelve. The guns of the batteries were spiked and implements generally destroyed. Matches were fixed to explode the magazines, but, from some unfortunate cause, both those at Wagner and Gregg failed to explode. The enemy threw his calcium light on Wagner during the whole night and one of the most furious bombardments on record, even during this war, was continuously kept up while the movements were progressing; but he did not ascertain the evacuation until the last of the boats were leaving. Then his guard-boats discovered the movement of our boats engaged in the embarkation, and creeping up upon the rear succeeded in cutting off and capturing three barges, containing Lieutenant Haskell and boat's crew of the *Chicora*, and soldiers of the army.

The enemy occupied Battery Wagner about daylight on the 7th September, and was opened upon by Batteries Simkins and Cheves and Fort Moultrie, with the works adjacent. Soon after, Admiral Dahlgren, commanding the enemy's fleet, sent a demand to Major Stephen Elliott, commanding Fort Sumter, for a surrender of that post. Major Elliott declined, meantime referring the matter to the headquarters of the district. Under instructions from the headquarters of the department, Admiral Dahlgren was informed that he could have Fort Sumter when he could take and hold it. About six P. M., the Ironsides and five Monitors came up the channel and opened fire against Fort Sumter and the batteries on Sullivan's Island, which was promptly and steadily replied to by our guns (until it was too dark to observe the vessels,) with some effect. The enemy kept up his fire until about nine o'clock, doing but little damage to the works. First Lieutenant E. A. Erwin, First South Carolina Infantry was killed at Battery Beauregard.

On the morning of the 8th, a monitor, supposed to be the *Weehawken*, was observed aground in the channel leading to Cummings' Point, near the shore of Morris Island. A slow fire was opened on her from a trebly banded Brooke gun and the ten-inch columbiad from Sullivan's Island, and from such guns as would bear from Fort Johnson. The endeavor was made to strike her below her armor, which was out of water at low tide. She was struck several times below the usual water lines, and about nine o'clock the Ironsides and five other monitors came up to her assistance, engaging the forts and batteries at distances varying from eight hundred to fifteen hundred yards, keeping up a very heavy cannonade.

A shell from the *Weehawken* struck and disabled an eight-inch columbiad in Fort Moultrie and glancing, burst near a service magazine, which was protected by a heavy traverse, throwing incendiary contents into the magazine and exploding it and several

shells, killing sixteen and wounding twelve men of Captain R. Press Smith's company E, first South Carolina infantry. This disaster interrupted the practice but little, for Captain Burnett's company relieved Captain Smith's, under a heavy cannonade, and an accurate and deliberate fire was maintained against the enemy from all the batteries on the island for about five hours, when the enemy withdrew, evidently much cut up and disabled.

From personal observation, I take pleasure in commending the conduct and practice of the officers and men engaged of Colonel Butler's regiment. The effect on the iron-clads, I believe to have been greater than on the 7th of April, and since the action but one monitor has fired a gun. Their number has been decreasing, four only being now (21st) in sight. Besides the casualties mentioned from the explosion, three men were killed and two officers, Captain Wardlaw and Lieutenant De Saussure, and fourteen men were wounded at Fort Moultrie. Having met with little success in the cannonade on Sullivan's Island batteries, the enemy's naval commander next made an attempt to obtain possession of Fort Sumter, and about one o'clock on the morning of the 9th, attacked that fort with a fleet of from thirty to forty barges. Major Elliott caused his fire to be reserved until the enemy was within a few yards of the southern and eastern faces upon which the landing was attempted. He was then received with a close fire of musketry. Hand-grenades and fragments of the epaulments were thrown over, on the heads of his men, demoralizing and completely repulsing him. The crews, near shore, sought refuge in the recesses and breaches in the scarp, and those at a distance turned and pulled rapidly away. The gunboat Chicora, Fort Moultrie, and the Sullivan's Island batteries, and Fort Johnson opened a fire, enfilading the faces of Fort Sumter, as soon as the signal was made, cutting up the retreating barges, of which, several were seen floating, capsized and disabled, the next morning. Major Elliott succeeded in securing five boats, five stand of colors, twelve officers, and one hundred and nine men, including two officers and seventeen men wounded.

The prisoners reported the attacking force about four hundred strong, but it was probably much larger and the enemy's loss was undoubtedly much heavier than that portion which fell into our hands and under our observation. Amongst the captured colors was a worn and torn garrison flag, reported by some of the prisoners as being that which Major Anderson was permitted to take from the fort on the occasion of his being compelled to surrender in April, 1861. This had been brought to hoist on the fort, and to be made the subject of boast, had the assault succeeded. Whether it was really the flag or not, it would doubtless have been so announced. As the attempt was a disastrous repulse, it has been stated, I am informed, by certain officers of the enemy, that the flag is not the identical standard, but the evidence is such that I believe that it is, notwithstanding testimony coming from that quarter. With the four others, it has been transmitted to headquarters. No casualties occurred on our side. Early in the day the commander of the enemy's fleet sent in a flag of truce to tender

assistance to his wounded, and probably to gain information, but his offers were declined. During the evening of the 9th and 10th, the prisoners, both whole and wounded, were brought to the city, and have since been sent into the interior.

From the 10th, active operations of hostility on the part of the enemy have ceased. His working parties, however, have been busily engaged upon Morris Island, at Batteries Wagner and Gregg, and intermediate points, and on Black Island, evidently preparing for a prosecution of the siege, by long-range fire upon Sullivan's Island, James Island, and the harbor. Our batteries have been kept in such activity as the necessities of the case required and the state of our ammunition and armament permitted, with the effect of retarding his operations.

The above report has given the principal events of the siege from the 20th of August to the present date as they have occurred. For other details, I have to refer to the reports of subordinate commanders, heretofore and herewith transmitted to the headquarters of the department.

During the period of thirty days included in the report, the forces under my command have been increased, by the arrival of the brigades of Brigadier Generals Evans and Anderson, the former of which has been stationed in Christ Church parish, and the latter has reinforced Brigadier General Taliaferro's command upon James Island.

The preparations for repulsing the attack of the enemy on the city by the batteries of the interior lines have been steadily progressed with, and the troops held in readiness to meet the enemy at such points as he should develop an attack.

Curtailed as we are in transportation, it has been impossible to attempt the offensive, except by artillery, with troops in force. A gallant endeavor to attack the Ironsides was, however, made on the night of the 21st, by Captain James Carlin, in charge of a steam torpedo-boat, in which he proceeded down the channel, through the enemy's fleet, and struck the frigate. Unfortunately, the current and other causes prevented a direct collision, and having been discovered, the attempt was, for the time, abandoned, Captain Carlin making good his retreat into the harbor, under a heavy fire from the Ironsides and other vessels.

In closing the report, I have to express my appreciation of the conduct of Brigadier Generals Hagood and Colquitt, and Colonels Keitt and Harrison, who have, during this portion of the siege, commanded our forces on Morris Island. Generals Hagood and Colquitt, as each detail came round, accepted the arduous command with alacrity, and held their post with constancy, during their command. Colonel L. M. Keitt, who relieved Brigadier General Colquitt, towards the termination of the siege, held his command until the last extremity, when he was relieved by orders from superior authority, and brought off his troops with eminent success, from an insular position, in the immediate proximity of an overwhelming land and naval force



of the enemy, under a mortar practice almost unparalleled in its severity.

Colonel Alfred Rhett, commanding Fort Sumter, and Major Ormsby Blanding, first South Carolina artillery, deserve especial consideration for their conduct, and the manner in which the post was held during the cannonade of Fort Sumter. Colonel Rhett remained until relieved, and the last artillery soldier had been detached from the fort.

Colonel William Butler and the officers and men of his regiment, have performed their duties in charge of the batteries on Sullivan's Island, in such a manner as to inspire confidence in their will and ability to repulse the future attacks which may be made against them.

Lieutenant Colonel Yates, Major Edward Manigault, Captains Mitchell and Billop, commanding the batteries on James Island, bearing upon Morris Island, and the enemy's approaches, have been untiring in their efforts.

The gallant conduct of Major Stephen Elliott, commanding Fort Sumter, and the Charleston battalion, under Major Julius A. Blake, constituting the garrison, in repulsing the attack of the enemy's barges on the morning of the 9th, is especially to be commended.

I must refer to the reports of subordinate commanders for the names of those officers who have distinguished themselves by good conduct, which want of space and time prevent my mentioning in this, and beg to express my hearty concurrence in their recommendation.

Brigadier Generals Taliaferro and Clingman, in command on James Island and Sullivan's Island, have held their troops in constant readiness for service, and by prompt management of details from their respective commands, have assisted no little in enabling the service on Morris Island to continue to the full length of the siege.

I have to renew my approval of the conduct of Captain William F. Nance, principal Assistant Adjutant General, attached to these headquarters, and for the fourth time, to recommend him for promotion, long since earned by faithful and devoted service, as well as gallantry in the field.

Captain B. H. Read, A. A. General, Lieutenants Rogers and Wagner, A. D. C., Captain E. M. Seabrook, volunteer A. D. C., and Lieutenant Simms, C. S. A., have all been well and actively engaged during this period. Lieutenants W. G. McCabe and T. H. Smith, provisional artillery, have been, during the time mentioned, on duty under direct orders from these headquarters, and have performed it to my full satisfaction.

Captain C. C. Pinckney, and Lieutenant Seabrook, ordnance officers, have fulfilled their difficult duties to the extent of the material at their disposal.

Major Motte A. Pringle, post quartermaster, upon whom the trying and difficult duties of transportation have principally devolved, has performed them with energy and fidelity.

Major C. H. Suber, district quartermaster, and Major N. W. Smith, district paymaster, have been diligent and attentive in furnishing the supplies demanded from them.

The medical staff, at the different posts, have distinguished them-



selves by their attention to the sick and wounded. I refer to the reports of subordinate commanders, and of the chief medical officers, for the names of those who deserve special mention and consideration.

I also desire to acknowledge the valuable services rendered by the officers and men of the Palmetto State and Chicora in assisting in the removal of the troops from Morris Island.

Accompanying this report, I have the honor to transmit, in addition to the subordinate reports already sent forward, Major Elliott's report of the repulse on the night of the 8th instant; the reports of battery commanders, and of Col. William Butler, commanding artillery on Sullivan's Island; of the action of the 8th instant; lists of killed, wounded and missing during the period covered by this report; list of ordnance on Morris Island, and special reports in the cases of Lieutenant Johnson, of the engineer corps, and lance sergeant Huger, of the signal corps.

I have the honor to be, General,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. S. RIPLEY,

*Brigadier General commanding.*

To Brigadier General THOMAS JORDAN,

*Chief of Staff.*

REPORT OF MAJOR ELLIOTT OF THE ASSAULT UPON  
FORT SUMTER, ON THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 9TH,  
1863.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT SUMTER, }  
September 12, 1863. }

Captain W. F. NANCE, A. A. G. :

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit a report of the late action at this post.

On the 4th instant, pursuant to Special Orders, No. 298, Headquarters, 1st Military District, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, I assumed command, with the Charleston battalion of infantry, commanded by Major J. A. Blake, as a garrison.

All the available guns having been already dismounted, the defence was to be conducted by infantry.

The condition of the work was as follows: The gorge "A" had been so cut by the enemy's artillery, that the scarp had assumed the form of an inclined plane, with a dip of about forty-five degrees. The wall of the east face had been shot away, leaving the arches, which had been filled with sand, exposed. The north face was comparatively secure. The northwest contained several serious breaches, and one of very considerable size, B. This was defended by a barricade, the others were securely obstructed.

The west face was uninjured; the lower tier of embrasures being merely closed by their usual shutters; the main sally-port in this face had been pierced for musketry and commanded the wharf.

Dispositions, similar to the following, were habitually made:

Captain Hopkins' company D, forty-three men, lay on their arms on the parapet of the gorge, and Captain Miles' company E, twelve men, at the breach in the northwest face. The guard, except the sentinels on post, were to defend the sally-port. Captain Simons' company B, twenty-eight men, lay at the entrance on the west face.

In case of an alarm, Captain Lords' company F, forty-two men, was to occupy the southwest angle, and support Captain Hopkins, on the right. Lieutenant Saltus' company A, twelve men, at the southeast, was to support him on the left. Lieutenant Harris' company G, twenty-five men, was to occupy the northeast angle. Captain Mulvany, company C, forty-three men was, to support Captain Miles. In case their services should not be needed, the last four companies were to remain formed on the parade, below their respective positions, so as to be ready to move to any weak point.

I had procured from Charleston a supply of hand-grenades and fire-balls. Detachments of men for each of these kinds of service were kept constantly in position, at three different points of the par-

apet. I requested Captain Champneys, the engineer in charge, to plant two fougasses in the wharf, leading from the gorge; during the attack he kindly superintended their delivery.

At one, A. M., while observing a monitor that had taken position near the fort, I saw the enemy pulling up from the eastward, in two columns; the head of the one directed upon the northeast, that of the other upon the southeast angle of the fort.

I ordered up three companies within supporting distance, and reserved our fire until they had deployed, and commenced to land. The outer boats replied rapidly for a few minutes. The crews of those that had effected a landing sought refuge from a galling fire, under the projecting masses of the wall, whence grenades and fire-balls soon dislodged them.

The fire of the "Chicora," lying at a short distance to the northward, of Sullivan's Island to the northeast, and of Fort Johnson to the westward, encircled the work, and effectually assisted to prevent any reinforcements from coming up.

The enemy, with some of his boats disabled by hand-grenades, and masses of masonry, convenient weapons to the ready hands of our garrison, and overwhelmed by our own, and the fire of our supports, called for quarter, and were ordered, in detail, to make their way to the gorge, whence they were transferred to a place of security. Not one of our men was injured.

The whole force engaged on our side consisted of eighty riflemen, and twenty-four men detached for service of the grenades and fire-balls. The remainder of the garrison were ready for action, and remained in position.

The force of the enemy exceeded, according to the statement of captured officers, four hundred men. Captured papers would indicate it to have been eight hundred and seventy.

His ascertained loss was six killed, fifteen wounded, and one hundred and six prisoners, of whom eleven were officers. We captured also five barges, five stands of colors, among them a flag, said, by the prisoners, to be the flag borne from the fort by Major Anderson in 1861, and a small quantity of arms and accoutrements. Most of the latter were thrown overboard by the prisoners, and lost.

Several boats drifted off with dead and wounded men.

The action was brief and decisive, as they found us prepared, and were, themselves, surprised at meeting more than a nominal resistance.

The Charleston battalion fully sustained its well-earned reputation, by cheerfully enduring the hardships of their position, and moving forward with energy in the moment of danger.

All the officers performed their duties well. The adjutant of the battalion, Lieutenant W. Mason Smith, rendered me throughout, great assistance.

I have the honor to refer you to the accompanying papers containing lists of killed, wounded and prisoners, and captured arms and other property, and also a sketch of the fort, showing the posi-

tions of the interior communications, and the dispositions of the troops.

I cannot omit to mention the services of Captain T. J. Champneys, of the engineer corps, who has shown great zeal and ability in conducting the defences of this work.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

STEPHEN ELLIOTT, JR.,

*Major of Artillery, P. A. C. S., commanding.*

COLONEL WILLIAM BUTLER'S REPORT OF ACTION WITH  
IRON-CLAD FLEET ON THE 7TH AND 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1863.

HEADQUARTERS ARTILLERY,  
SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, *September 12, 1863.* }

Captain EDWARD WHITE, *A. A. G.* :

SIR : I have the honor to make the following report of the action between the batteries on this island and the iron-clad fleet of the enemy on the 7th and 8th of this month :

On the afternoon of the 7th, about six, P. M., five monitors and the frigate Ironsides engaged the batteries until after dark, resulting only in one casualty at our batteries. First Lieutenant E. A. Erwin was killed by a shell at Beauregard Battery. Lieutenant Erwin had just returned from service at Morris Island, and escaped unhurt, to meet death at a less exposed position. He was more than ordinarily intelligent, brave and conscientious. The regiment has lost in him one of its best officers.

The Ironsides continued to fire an occasional shot after we had ceased firing, until about nine o'clock, P. M. It was, however, so dark that the vessels could not be seen.

On the morning of the 8th one of the monitors, supposed to be the Weehawken, which had, the day previous, taken a position very near the beach of Morris Island, in the channel leading to Cummings' Point, nearly opposite to Fort Moultrie, was observed to show so much of her hull as to lead to the belief that the boat was aground. I received, also, early in the morning, a dispatch from Major Elliott, commanding Fort Sumter, giving his belief that the boat was aground and could be destroyed. Learning from a conversation with General Clingman, commanding Sullivan's Island, that it would meet with his sanction, I directed a slow fire to be opened upon the monitor from the treble banded Brooke gun and ten inch columbiads, I think, with some effect. The fire was returned, and about nine o'clock, A. M., five other monitors, with the Ironsides, were seen approaching, whether to shield the boat that was thought to be aground, or whether it was a preconcerted move, I am unable to say. About this time a shot or shell from the Weehawken struck the muzzle of an eight-inch columbiad in Fort Moultrie and glanced into some shell boxes, which were protected by a traverse, producing an explosion, killing sixteen and wounding twelve men of company E, first South Carolina infantry, Captain R. P. Smith. This disaster rendered it necessary to replace company E by company F, Captain B. S. Burnett, which arrived, under fire, from the Beauregard Battery.

The Ironsides took a position some fifteen hundred yards distant and opened a very heavy fire from her broadsides. The monitors took positions varying from nine hundred to fourteen hundred yards,

all directing their fire upon Fort Moultrie and the batteries adjoining. Batteries Bee and Beauregard also received a portion of their fire. The batteries replied, but, owing to the scant amount of ammunition on hand, the fire was not so rapid as that of the fleet.

After the action had continued about five hours the fleet withdrew, one of the monitors I think disabled, the Weehawken remaining in the same position it occupied in the morning.

Besides the loss produced by the explosion before referred to, three men were killed, two officers, Captain G. A. Wardlaw, slightly, and Lieutenant D. B. DeSaussure severely, and fourteen men wounded at Fort Moultrie.

At Battery Bee, one officer and one man were slightly wounded, and at Battery Beauregard one officer (Lieutenant Edward Macbeth) slightly wounded.

Two guns in Fort Moultrie were disabled, the eight-inch columbiad before referred to, and one rifle thirty-two pounder, which had the right trunnion knocked off by a shot or shell from the enemy.

No other material damage was done to the batteries.

I regret to say that the treble-banded Brooke gun gave way during the action, a crack being made in the band in rear of the vent and through the breech. I beg leave to refer to the report of Lieutenant Dwight for an explanation of the circumstances attending the loss of this valuable gun.

The firing at the several batteries on the island was accurate and deliberate, and it affords me great pleasure to commend the conduct of both officers and men of my command.

I enclose herewith the reports of battery commanders, with a list of killed and wounded.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. BUTLER, *Colonel commanding.*

REPORT OF ROBERT DETREVILLE, MAJOR COMMAND-  
ING, OF ENGAGEMENT ON 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1863.

HEADQUARTERS FORT MOULTRIE, S. C., }  
September 7, 1863. }

Lieutenant M. KING, *A. A. G.* :

SIR: I have the honor to report that this evening, about six o'clock, P. M., five monitors and the Ironsides were reported approaching the fort. The guns were manned, and when within range fire was opened. All the boats replied rapidly, striking the fort a number of times, but without any other damage than destroying a portion of the barracks. The fire continued very rapidly, and with precision from the boats, our guns replying steadily for about two hours, when the enemy withdrew.

No casualties to report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT DETREVILLE, *Major commanding.*

REPORT OF MAJOR ROBERT DETREVILLE, COMMAND-  
ING FORT MOULTRIE, OF ENGAGEMENT WITH IRON-  
CLAD FLEET, ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, 1863.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT MOULTRIE, S. C. }  
September, 9th, 1863. }

LIEUTENANT M. KING, A. A. G. :

SIR : I have the honor to report that yesterday morning, 8th instant, one of the monitors, the Weehawken, was observed to be aground, opposite this post, and fire was at once opened on her with effect, many of our shots having been seen to strike the hull, of which a large portion was exposed, by the lowness of the tide. The steamer promptly replied, and soon brought to her assistance the " Ironsides " and five other monitors. At about eight o'clock A. M., the Ironsides came to anchor about twelve hundred yards from the fort, and the monitors took positions higher up the river, and about eight hundred yards, and together opened a terrific fire from rifle and fifteen-inch guns, using shot, shell, shrapnel, grape and incendiary shell.

I regret to announce, here, an accident most terrible in its effects, and but for which, our casualties would have been but slight. A fifteen-inch shell from the Weehawken, struck the muzzle of an eight-inch columbiad, and glancing off, exploded among a large number of shell boxes and ammunition chests, (which had been placed behind a traverse, and at which a number of the men of Captain Smith's company were stationed,) killing instantly sixteen men, and wounding twelve others. Captain Smith himself, narrowly escaped by leaping from the parapet into the ditch in front of the fort.

The fire from the enemy now became furious, and broadside after broadside from the Ironsides would tear through the buildings of the fort, sending fragments of every description in every direction, and rendering it almost impossible to pass from one portion of the fort to another. But nobly did officers and men remain at their guns and return their fire. Captain Burnett's company came from the Beauregard Battery, under a storm of shot and shell, and relieved Captain Smith, whose men had been nearly all killed and wounded by the explosion already mentioned.

Lieutenant D. G. Calhoun deserves great credit for the manner in which he discharged his duties as officer of the day, in carrying out the arrangements for the removal of the dead and wounded, and frequently in extinguishing fires in different parts of the fort, during the most severe part of the bombardment.

Captain G. A. Wardlaw, A. Q. M., volunteered his services at one of the guns, and was conspicuous for his coolness, and the manner in which he handled his piece, but was himself knocked down by a piece of one of the traverses, which fortunately inflicted no other damage than a momentary unconsciousness and some slight bruises.

Lieutenant DeSaussure, while gallantly fighting his gun, was struck by a large fragment of stone, which fractured his collar-bone, and it is feared inflicted some internal injury.



Our fire was kept up steadily until two o'clock P. M., when the enemy withdrew; one of the monitors being evidently damaged, and towed by two others. The fire from the fort was deliberate and remarkably accurate, nearly every shot striking the boat at which it was aimed. As I cannot mention any one more conspicuous for gallantry than another, I must content myself with simply saying that officers and men did their whole duty, and submit the names of the officers and companies engaged: The battery on the east was commanded by Captain Valentine, company "G," with Lieutenant De Saussure; the battery next on the west, was commanded by Captain Witherspoon, company "C," and the next battery by Captain Smith, company "E," with Lieutenants Calhoun and Edgerton, afterwards by Captain Burnett, company "F," with Lieutenants Gailliard, Whalley and Marshall.

Lieutenant Perrin rendered very efficient services as ordnance officer, and Surgeon Carter, and assistant surgeon Keller assiduously supplied the demands of the wounded.

Two of the guns of the fort were placed *hors du combat*, the one an eight-inch columbiad, already referred to, and the other a rifle thirty-two-pounder, the trunnion of which was knocked off by a piece of shell.

About one o'clock A. M., this morning, on the signal that an attack was being made on Fort Sumter, we again opened fire with shell and grape, firing so as to pass closely to the right and left of the fort, and on a signal of "all right," again ceased firing.

I have the honor to submit, herewith, a report of the casualties, the number of wounded being far smaller than was at first reported, many of the wounds being slight, and the men returned to duty.

Company "C," Captain B. J. Witherspoon, commanding—Killed: Privates A. J. Bennett and M. D. Hilton—2. Wounded: Sergeant Grissom, corporal Kile, privates Adams, Bolan, Helms, J. A. Johnson, W. H. Johnson, W. Mangum, Queen, Roses, Woodley—11; all slight.

Company "E," Captain R. Press Smith, commanding—Killed: Corporal M. Spires, privates M. L. Casey, P. Farmer, A. W. Geddings, Wesley Hall, J. G. Jeans, J. L. Lalley, J. L. Langton, Perry Levina, Peter McGovern, Andrew Morie, John Myers, J. N. Roberts, Joseph Scalf, R. Tinsley—16. Wounded: Corporal Dolan, privates Carnes, Knight, Lotz, McKinon, Morie, Smith, Spires, Boman, Harrington, Polson, Phillips—12.

Company "F," Captain B. S. Burnett, commanding—Killed: None. Wounded: Private M. Barry—1.

Company "G," Captain J. Valentine, commanding—Killed: Private Langton—1. Wounded: Lieutenant D. B. De Saussure, privates Vicenti and R. M. Smith—3.

Recapitulation—Killed, 19. Wounded, 27. Total, 46.

All of which is respectfully submitted by

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT DETREVILLE,

Major commanding.

# REPORT OF ORDNANCE AND ORDNANCE STORES LEFT AT BATTERY WAGNER—EDMUND MAZYCK, LIEU- TENANT AND ORDNANCE OFFICER.

CHARLESTON, *September 6, 1863.*

Captain T. A. HUGUENIN,  
*Chief of Artillery, Morris Island :*

CAPTAIN : In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to make the following report of the amount of ordnance stores in Battery Wagner at the time of its evacuation. I regret that this report cannot be given in exact numbers. The reason for this I will hereafter explain.

The armament consisted of thirteen guns, including shell guns, howitzers, columbiads and mortars.

Of shot, shell, &c., the following is an approximate :

Ten-inch shot, about.....	20
Ten-inch shell, about.....	100
Ten-inch grape, about.....	40
Ten-inch canister, about.....	40
Eight-inch shell, about.....	115
Eight-inch canister, about.....	280
Eight-inch grape, about.....	200
Thirty-two-pounder shot, about.....	100
Thirty-two-pounder canister, about.....	150
Thirty-two-pounder grape, about.....	100
Thirty-two-pounder shell, about.....	100
Twelve-pounder shrapnel, about.....	100
Twelve-pounder shell, about.....	50
Twelve-pounder canister, about.....	120

There were other articles in the magazine, such as cartridge bags and necessary implements ; but, of course, the supply was quite limited, as we are all aware that the consumption of articles was enormous and the means of supply extremely limited. I endeavored to save as many articles as possible, and sent to Cummings' Point, to be transported to the city, about fifty rifles and double-barrel shot guns ; also, fifteen hundred assorted fuses, and as many friction tubes. All of these articles, I hope, will arrive.

I regret not being able to give a more exact account of the stores ; but, for prudential reasons, all my accounts and papers had to be destroyed. I shall endeavor to think over the matter, and, if necessary, add any articles which may be herein omitted. The short time allowed for making my report has also interfered. I have been unable to see Lieutenant Revely and obtain from him

an account of such stores, as he had as ordnance officer at Battery Gregg.

With much respect, I am your obedient, &c.,

EDMUND MAZYCK,

*Lieutenant Artillery and Ordnance Officer.*

Official:

W. GORDON McCABE, *A. A. A. General.*

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[ENDORSEMENT.]

N. B.—There was a considerable quantity of projectiles at Cummings' Point, not hauled up, of which I could get no report.

H. BRYAN, *A. A. G.*

REPORT OF C. C. PINCKNEY, CAPTAIN OF ARTILLERY,  
AND ORDNANCE OFFICER, FIRST MILITARY DISTRICT,  
SOUTH CAROLINA, STATING SOME CIRCUMSTANCES  
CONNECTED WITH THE EVACUATION OF BATTERY  
WAGNER.

HEADQUARTERS 1ST MILITARY DIS. S. C. ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT, }  
Charleston, Sept. 8th, 1863. }

Brigadier General R. S. RIPLEY,  
*Commanding 1st Military District, S. C. :*

GENERAL: In obedience to your instructions, I have the honor to submit the following statement of what passed under my observation at Battery Wagner, on the night of the avacuation of that post.

On the evening of that day I took down some spikes, slow match, safety fuze, sledges, &c., to Morris Island. I went at once to Battery Wagner, taking the spikes in my hand. I had made requisition for rat-tail files, in August last, but had received none ; these were intended as substitutes.

I found Captain Huguenin, with the ordnance officer, Lieutenant Mazyck, arranging the safety fuze previously sent, and gave them my assistance. The splicing was carefully done, the ends of the fuze split and primed. Captain Huguenin, stated that he had tried several pieces of the fuze, but I repeated the experiment, and found it burned perfectly well. When the main body of the garrison was withdrawn, I remained to assist in the final dispositions. The proper time having elapsed, Lieutenant Mazyck, assisted by Lieutenant Ross, twenty-fifth South Carolina volunteers, was left to lay the fuze, and I, accompanied by Captain Huguenin, to spike the guns. Here we encountered great difficulty. The vents of most of the pieces were greatly enlarged. In many cases the spikes dropped losely in, and we were obliged to use two and sometimes three of them. We could have remedied this in a measure, had it been practicable to drive them tightly and hammer the edges of the orifice over them, but Captain Huguenin's orders enforced the most perfect quiet, and the necessity was sufficiently obvious. We obviated the difficulty, as well as it was possible, by binding up a haversack and hammering through that, but it could not be thoroughly effective. Having thus spiked each piece in succession, except the ten-inch columbiad, Captain Huguenin arranged a lanyard for firing this gun, the wheels being in gear, and we returned to the mazagine. The catridges were piled up against one wall, a large number, and the fuze inserted in one of them, going down to the bottom, and carefully trained out of the door, and along the side of the covered way to avoid the feet of any passers by. We then waited the courier from Colonel Keitt, Lieutenant Ross and myself, by Captain Huguenin's order, joining the lookouts in firing an

occasional rifle from the parapet, to keep up a show of occupation. The courier came. Lieutenant Ross then took the lanyard, and Captain Huguenin ordered "the last gun from Battery Wagner, fire!" But the primer failed. Another gave no better result. We then primed with powder from a Whitworth rifle cartridge, but the piece could not be fired. We then got out one of the two spikes from the thirty-two-pounder; but the other prevented the passage of the flame. So much time was now consumed that Captain Huguenin thought best to abandon the attempt.

He lit the fuze, all of us watching to see that it was burning correctly. We then abandoned Battery Wagner. Great was our disappointment as we looked in vain, during our passage to the city, for the expected explosion. Possibly a fragment of shell may have cut the fuze before it burned to the door. I can think of no other accident. No precaution was omitted.

Though not officially present, I trust I may be allowed, as a spectator, to bear witness to the coolness, judgment and fidelity, of Captain Huguenin and the officers under him, in the discharge of his delicate task confided to them.

I have the honor, General, to be

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

C. C. PINCKNEY,

*Capt. Artillery and Ord officer, 1st Mil. Dist., S. C.*

Official :

W. GORDON McCABE, *A. A. A. General.*

## CAPTAIN LESESNE'S REPORT OF THE EVACUATION OF BATTERY GREGG.

CHARLESTON, *September 7, 1863.*

Major HENRY BRYAN, *A. A. G.*:

MAJOR: I have the honor to report, that, in obedience to orders received from Colonel Keitt, I went to Battery Gregg, on the morning of the 5th instant, and took command of the post. The battery was shelled heavily during the day by the enemy's land batteries, and for a part of the day by the Ironsides, causing considerable injury to the work, and a number of casualties. I am not able to state the exact number. Information having been received that the enemy intended an attack by water on the battery, I had the guns of the battery trained on the most probable points of attack, double loaded with canister, one ten-inch columbiad bearing on the beach in front, and one on the extreme point in rear. Two twelve-pounder howitzers were placed on the beach to the right of the work, running from the right of Battery Gregg to the beach. The artillery was supported by Major Gardener, commanding the twenty-seventh Georgia.

About half-past one, A. M., the enemy advanced upon the point in about twenty boats. When within one hundred yards of the beach, I opened upon them with the ten-inch gun, followed by the howitzers. The infantry commenced firing shortly afterwards. The enemy returned the fire with their boat howitzers and musketry. A few succeeded in landing, but quickly returned to their boats. After the fire had been kept up for about fifteen minutes the whole force returned. Our casualties were one man mortally, and about five slightly, wounded. The enemy's loss is not known, but is supposed to have been heavy. The fire of the enemy was kept up steadily, on the 6th, until evening—material damage being done to the work. Casualties seven.

Having received orders, about half-past seven, P. M., to hold myself in readiness to evacuate the work, spike the guns, and blow it up, with the assistance of Captain Lee and Lieutenant Stiles, of the engineers, I laid the safety-match in loose powder in the magazine, running it out to the parapet of the work. The match was laid on planks, so as to prevent any moisture from reaching it. The men composing the garrison of the battery were embarked immediately after the last of the twenty-seventh Georgia. On receiving orders from Colonel Keitt, I spiked the two ten-inch guns, breaking the spikes flush off with the guns; had the field-pieces spiked and thrown overboard, with all their ammunition, and directed Major Holcombe, C. S., who had volunteered to assist me, to light the match. The match went out at first, but on being lighted again burnt well. On Colonel Keitt's countermanding the order for lighting it was found impossible to extinguish it, and it could not be cut with the knife which

we had. This was but a few minutes before we left the point, and it was then within the doorway of the magazine, and burning freely. I omitted to mention that the match was cut off to burn about fifteen minutes, it burning a foot in fifteen seconds.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY R. LESESNE,  
*Captain First South Carolina Artillery.*

Official:

W. GORDON McCABE, *A. A. A. G.*

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[ENDORSEMENT.]

In repelling the boat attack on the night of the 5th, the field howitzers were commanded by Lieutenant Macbeth, company A, first South Carolina infantry, who handled them with gallantry and skill.

H. BRYAN, *A. A. G.*

REPORT OF THE EVACUATION OF MORRIS ISLAND ON  
THE NIGHT OF THE 6TH INSTANT, WITH THE EN-  
DORSED REMARKS OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL.

CHARLESTON, September 7, 1863.

Captain W. F. NANCE,

*Assistant Adjutant General First Military District,*

*Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida :*

CAPTAIN : I have the honor to make the following report of the evacuation of Morris Island, including Batteries Wagner and Gregg, by the troops under my command on the night of the 6th instant.

This step was authorized by a dispatch sent by signals from district headquarters, and received by me between four and five, P. M., and directed in detail by a special order from department headquarters, which was received from Captain McCabe, of General Ripley's staff, at dark, and was necessitated from the untenable condition of Battery Wagner, the greatly exhausted condition of the garrison, and constant artillery and sharpshooting fire of the enemy which prevented repairs.

The gradual approaches of the enemy had passed the front of the battery and the termination of their sap was not over fifty yards from the parapet of the sea face, enabling them to throw a mass of troops upon this flank, when our men were mostly in the bomb-proofs, where I was forced to keep them by the increasing fire of mortars and rifle guns on land, with an enfilading fire from the fleet during most of the day.

The salient on the left of the battery had been swept by such a terrible cross fire as to breach the parapet and throw it into irregular shapes, rendering the ascent from the moat easy ; and, moreover, men could not be kept there during this cross fire without the certainty of most of them being wounded or stunned. This salient is the part of the work gained by the enemy in the assault of the 18th of July.

As soon as the evacuation was authorized, I gave detailed instructions to the regimental commanders, viz: Lieutenant Colonel John G. Pressby, commanding twenty-fifth South Carolina volunteers ; Major James Gardner, commanding twenty-seventh Georgia volunteers ; Captain W. P. Crawford, commanding twenty-eighth Georgia volunteers, for the gradual movement of their men to Cummings' Point, so as to keep up an effective front to the enemy and insure silence and promptness. They expressed their hearty approval, believing an evacuation necessary to prevent a useless sacrifice of men. The men went down as if for special duty, and, though the most intelligent knew the fact, nearly all went off as if going to be relieved.

Captain Huguenin, chief of artillery was promptly notified of the steps to be taken and made his arrangements, with my sanction, for the removal of the artillery, and the written orders, when received,



were submitted to him for his guidance. He was entrusted with the delicate duty of bringing up the extreme rear, and firing the only magazine which contained powder, Lieutenant Mazyck, ordnance officer, being ordered to assist him. His report, with Lieutenant Mazyck's, is enclosed, marked "A," and is referred to as an important portion of this report.

At dark I sent to Captain H. R. Lesesne, who was commanding Battery Gregg, an order to prepare to blow up his magazine and render his guns unserviceable, directing him to confer with Captain F. D. Lee, of the engineers, who had read the orders. I had no copy of the detailed order, which came late, to give him, which was thus not communicated to him. I refer you to his report, marked "B," for particulars.

To anticipate the possibility of a pursuit by the enemy while retreating from Wagner, I ordered Lieutenant Robert M. Stiles, chief engineer at Battery Gregg, to construct a rifle pit across the island at a narrow point about a quarter of a mile in advance of Battery Gregg. This was accomplished by him after dark, while under mortar fire, with a force of seventy-seven negroes in his charge. He also cut away most of the earth covering of the magazine on the side towards our James Island batteries, then sent his negroes off to Fort Johnson, using a large flat left at Cummings' Point for that purpose.

Owing to the necessity of protecting the already reduced garrison, I had, early on the morning of the 6th instant, made the following disposition of my troops.

The twenty-seventh Georgia regiment, effective total 175 men, commanded by Major Gardner, a gallant and intelligent officer, were in the sand hills, well protected in pits dug there, the hillocks being natural traverses. Fifty men of the twenty-eighth Georgia, under Captain Adams, who had picketed the beach during the night, were also there, the remainder of the regiment, numbering one hundred and thirty effectives, were assigned to the extreme right of Battery Wagner, about forty-five kept out on the lines, and the remainder in the bomb-proof.

The twenty-fifth South Carolina (Eutaw) regiment, which had been terribly reduced by casualties and sickness during the day and night, proceeding to an effective total of about three hundred and sixty-five men, manned the left and centre of the battery, keeping only a guard of each company on its respective position of the lines, the remainder in the bomb-proof. Two companies of this regiment were sent to the sand hills for protection and to make room in the bomb-proof where several men had fainted on the 5th from excessive heat and foul air.

Major Gardner was ordered to cover the retreat with the twenty-seventh Georgia, in case of pursuit by the enemy; in the mean time to picket the beach at dark and hold his reserve in readiness to support Battery Wagner.

At early dark, I ordered Lieutenant Colonel Pressby, commanding twenty-fifth South Carolina, a very intelligent and reliable officer, to detail four companies (about one hundred men) to take a field piece from the left curtain to Cummings' Point and embark on the first boats.

Half an hour after, Captain Crawford, commanding twenty-seventh Georgia volunteers, was ordered to move a howitzer from the right of Wagner to the rifle pit near Gregg, place the piece in position there, collect his regiment from line-of-battle in rifle pits and when notified that transportation was ready, to send one company at a time to embark.

Major Gardner was ordered to man the rifle pits when Captain Crawford had left.

Lieutenant Colonel Pressby was ordered to extend his lines, and cover the line manned by the twenty-eighth Georgia, as soon as that regiment started, which was promptly done by him.

I will here remark that all this night, as on the previous night, the enemy threw a strong calcium light on the front of battery Wagner.

About nine, P. M., being informed that transportation was ready, the embarkation commenced and went on briskly and quietly until all had been embarked except the rear guard, which was commanded by Captain T. A. Huguenin, numbering thirty-five men, twenty-five men of the first South Carolina infantry, company "A," ten men of the twenty-fifth South Carolina volunteers, under command of Lieutenants Brown and Saft.

At about eleven, P. M., I turned over the command of Battery Wagner to Captain Huguenin, and ordering my Adjutant General, Major H. Bryan (a member of General Beauregard's staff, who had volunteered for special duty on Morris Island) to accompany me, I proceeded towards Cummings' Point. At the rifle pits, I received information that more transportation was ready and; I immediately ordered Major Gardner to embark his regiment and to take with him the twelve-pounder howitzer, which he did, but could not bring it off the island.

The transportation under the direction of Major M. A. Pringle, post quartermaster in Charleston, was admirably managed.

Lieutenant Colonel Dautzler, twentieth South Carolina volunteers, having been specially detailed by General Ripley, to superintend the transportation, under his spirited and excellent management, it succeeded perfectly.

When the infantry were all embarked, I directed Captain Kanapaux, commanding light artillery, to spike his three howitzers and embark his command. Captain Lesesne was then ordered to spike the guns of Battery Gregg, and embark his men. The rear guard from Wagner coming up at this time were embarked. I had ordered Captain Huguenin down, sending word by private John A. Stewart, "Gist Guards," the cavalry couriers having left without permission. There was no light kept at Gregg, so I could not well note the hour.

With two or three boats I now anxiously waited for Captain Huguenin's party, finally perceiving that the enemy's barges from Vincent's Creek were attacking our boats with musketry, I ordered the safety fuse to the magazine at Battery Gregg to be lighted, it was lit; the firing then ceased. As I desired the explosions at both batteries to be simultaneous as ordered, I ordered Captain Lesesne to extinguish the fuse, intending to relight it or apply another fuse, when

Captains Huguenin and Pinckney, and Lieutenant Mazyck, who were the only persons who had not yet come to the Point, arrived. Major Holcombe who had lighted the fuse, immediately attempted to extinguish it, he informed me from the parapet of the battery, that it would be difficult to cut it in twain and that it was burning brightly. At that moment the absent party arrived, and I directed him not to interfere with the fuse which was then burning brightly.

About half past one, A. M., with the rear guard of my command, I embarked, thus successfully withdrawing from Morris Island, and my responsibility ended.

As we started off, the Yankee barges directed their musketry fire upon us, causing the bullets to whiz around us, but doing no harm, bearing towards Fort Sumter. I proceeded to flag steamer Charleston and notified Captain Tucker that the evacuation of Morris' Island was accomplished and requesting him to give the rocket signal to our batteries.

I then proceeded to district headquarters and repeated the information arriving three, A. M., on the 7th.

During the day and evening of the 6th, Captain Adger, the efficient post quartermaster, kept his only wagon moving the wounded from Wagner to Gregg, under the direction of chief surgeon William C. Ravenel; strange to say none were hurt by the enemy's fire, which from time to time, swept across the road. Of course the wounded were embarked first.

Doctor Ravenel performed his arduous duties with alacrity and zeal, showing every kindness to the wounded and stunned, which poured in from sunrise on the 5th until the evening of the 6th; he left about half past ten, leading his ambulance corps.

I am happy to state that the majority of the wounded was slight, though disabling the men for the time.

The guns in the batteries were spiked, and the implements generally destroyed, equipments mostly carried off. The magazines were not blown up, owing to the faulty character of the safety fuses used for the purpose, which were ignited; that at Battery Wagner by Captain Huguenin, assisted by Captain Pinckney, district ordnance officer, and that at Battery Gregg by Major Holcombe, under Captain Lesesne's instructions, and the supervision of Captain F. D. Lee and Lieutenant Stiles of the Engineers.

The enemy were within thirty steps of the front of Battery Wagner, the voices of their sappers could be distinctly heard. Any attempt to break off the trunion or shatter the carriage of a gun would have been distinctly heard, and our movements discovered, besides the gun chambers had been filled with loose sand displaced by the enemy's shot, the guns could not be managed.

I attempted to move the sand but my working parties were broken up as soon as put to work.

The enemy had planted heavy mortars within one hundred yards of the battery, and they could and did throw their shells into any designated spot. They could hear the movements of a party at work along the line, and would kill, wound or disperse the men. Property

had to be destroyed within thirty steps of the enemy, and while they could hear the voices of our men in this close proximity to them, the whole garrison had to be removed. Their sand batteries and fleet swept every inch of ground between Batteries Wagner and Gregg, and any suspicion of our movements, compromised, if it did not destroy, the safety of the garrison. All the guns were effectually spiked.

At Battery Gregg every thing was destroyed but the two ten-inch guns; they were prepared for bursting when the last party embarked; before this party arrived the enemy's barges fired upon ours, transporting our troops, and also turning their fire upon us. An attempt had been made by the enemy the preceeding night, in barges to assail and capture Battery Gregg; the number of their barges there in easy range could not be ascertained.

I was informed by the Engineer, Captain Lee, that the explosion of the magazine would destroy the guns, the fuse was lighted, burned well and no doubt was entertained of its igniting the magazine.

The rear guard from Battery Wagner had embarked under fire from the enemy's barges. These barges, I am convinced, gave the enemy the information of the withdrawal of our garrisons. The guns of Battery Gregg were spiked.

My chief exertion was to save my men; whose future services will, I trust, be worth much more to the Confederacy, than what I failed to destroy to the enemy. Had instructions been sent to me earlier, more might have been done. Lieut. Stiles, assistant Engineer, stationed at Battery Gregg, at my request, had come up to Battery Wagner in the morning; upon examination he expressed to me a doubt whether there was powder enough in the magazine to blow it up. I should state at this point that I had sent on Friday, for an additional supply of powder, sending the requisition and my report, as to the state of the garrison, and of the day preceeding, by Major Warley, chief of artillery, who was wounded and returning to the city in a small boat, sent for the purpose. This boat was captured by the enemy's barges and my report either taken or destroyed by Major Warley. Of this capture I had no knowledge until Saturday night.

The blowing up of the magazines was entrusted by me to brave and intelligent officers, who, I think, did their best to effect it. (See Huguenin's and Lesesne's reports marked A and B.)

The chief ordnance officer of the district came to Morris Island, apparently to look after this, and was given every facility he asked for.

I did not attempt to destroy the bomb-proof at Wagner, because, after consulting with Captain Lee, of the engineers, I deemed it impracticable, from the small quantity of combustible material at my disposal, and that any smoke would at once inform the enemy and stimulate him to pursue us by land and water.

It must be remembered that the sand above the bomb-proof was considerably saturated with water which dripped through in several places.

To Captain Huguenin, chief of artillery; Major Bryan, A. A. G.; Lieutenant Colonel Pressby, commanding twenty-fifth S. C. V., and

Lieutenant Colonel Dautzler, superintending embarkation, I am chiefly indebted for the success of the evacuation. My thanks are due Mr. J. F. Mathews, engineer corps, for the use of his boat and crew for moving troops and bringing me off at the last.

Captain Hayne and Lieutenants Montgomery and Blum, of the twenty-fifth S. C. V., three valuable officers, were killed at their posts of duty during the last of the siege. Let their names be honored.

I desire to record the faithful services of privates Laith, Stewart, and Bond of the Gist Guard, S. C. volunteers, who have remained voluntarily on duty at Battery Wagner almost the entire siege. Always attentive and cool under fire. Stewart would make an excellent commissary and Laith a practical and hard-working ordnance officer. Lieutenant R. M. Stiles, engineer corps, creditably performed the duties assigned to him. Lieutenant Miller, company A, S. C. artillery, was distinguished for courage and for his cheerfulness, which was not diminished by a slight wound on the knee, and by being stunned for half an hour.

To Major Bryan, of General Beauregard's staff, who volunteered as my adjutant general, I am under the greatest obligations. Although at the time I was ordered to Morris Island to assume command of the forces there, he had a furlough to visit his father in Georgia, who was very ill, he promptly waived it and volunteered to go with me. His tact, coolness, experience, courage, and untiring industry were of the greatest service to me during the night and the day. His vigilance extended to every department and perpetually sought out means of increasing our resources and deficiencies.

In spite of severe indisposition for several days, I have made every exertion to meet the very unusual responsibilities imposed upon me.

Taking all circumstances into consideration, I trust that this will not compare unfavorably, on the part of the garrison, with any other retreat made during this war.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

L. M. KEITT,

*Colonel commanding.*

Official: W. GORDON McCABE,

*A. A. A. General:*

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[ENDORSED.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF S. C., GA., AND FLA., }  
*Charleston, S. C., Sept. 19th, 1863.* }

Had this evacuation been conducted in strict compliance with detailed orders, it would be one of the most memorable in history, and after all, may be regarded as a signal success and highly creditable to the commanding officer and all officers and men who participated in it.

Subjected to a terrible fire and beleaguered almost to the very

ditch of the work by an enterprising, watchful adversary, yet the entire garrison was withdrawn in safety. The coolness and discipline which characterized this operation, and through which an efficient command has been saved to the country for future use, are deemed worthy of notice and commendation by the War Department, especially when taken in connection with their stout defence of Morris Island for four days preceding the evacuation, together with the limited and imperfect means of water transportation at command.

One of the reasons assigned for not bursting the guns, blowing up magazines and bomb-proofs in Batteries Wagner and Gregg—that is an alleged want of time after the order to evacuate had reached Morris Island—calls, however, for remarks from these headquarters.

It had been a standing order for several weeks previous to the evacuation, that in such an event, all guns, magazines, bomb-proofs, &c., should be thoroughly destroyed, and with that view, time-fuses had been tested, and with “rat tail” files were provided for both works. Further, the written special instructions of Brigadier General Ripley prescribing measures and means for the complete destruction of these works and of their armaments at the proper time, and the detailed orders directing and regulating the evacuation of Morris Island were received by the commanding officer *at dark* on the 6th instant, (about six, P. M.,) the last detachment of his command did not quit the island until after one, A. M., on the 7th instant; hence there were seven (7) hours for the completion of all necessary arrangements. I am, therefore, unable to admit that there was any lack of time for the thorough execution of the work of destruction ordered.

It is not explained why the time-fuses failed to explode the powder left in the magazines. They were seen burning brightly when last observed, and it is, therefore, probable that either before or whilst the fire was being applied, the ends in contact with the powder were accidentally detached.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

*General commanding.*

*LIST OF ORDNANCE left on Morris Island on the night of its evacuation, September 6th, 1863.*

**BATTERY WAGNER.**

Ten-inch columbiad.	Ten-inch mortar.	Eight-inch shell gun.	Eight-inch siege howitzer.	Eight-inch S. C. howitzer.	Thirty-two-pdr smooth bore.	Forty-two pdr carronade.	Eight-inch siege mortar, brass.	Thirty-two-pdr carronade.	Twelve-pdr howitzer.	Total.	REMARKS.
2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	17	2 One dismantled & broken, 1 serviceable. 1 Serviceable. 2 Serviceable—1 injured by shell and carriage disabled. 2 One dismantled and broken to pieces. 1 Serviceable. 2 Serviceable. 1 Serviceable. 1 Spiked with friction tube two days before evacuation. 3 Serviceable. 2 Serviceable.

**BATTERY GREGG.**

Ten-inch columbiad.	Nine-inch Dahlgren.	Ten-inch S. C. mortar.	Twelve-pdr howitzer.	Total.	REMARKS.
2	1	1	2	6	2 One carriage injured and the other serviceable. 1 Serviceable. 1 Serviceable. 2 Serviceable.

*LIST OF MEN CAPTURED on the "Leo," on the night of the 4th of September, by the enemy's barges.*

No.	Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
1	F. F. Warley,	Major, 2d S. C. art'y.	Wounded by splinter at Bat. Wagner.
1	F. Middleton,	Coxswain.	
2	W. Fox,	Boat hand.	
3	James Favan,	"	
4	George McDonald,	"	
5	J. Silvanus,	"	
6	John Smith,	"	
7	Thomas Nolan,	"	
8	H. McDonald,	"	
9	O Davis,	"	
10	C. Schnibble,	"	
11	H. Schnibble.	"	

















